

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104273

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CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 /053 R

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OASD/ISA:MGEM BOWMAN
JS/J-5:COL. JOHNSON (INFORMED)
OASD/P AND E:MR. TULKOFF
EUR/NE:SWORREL

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O P 070017Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
USLO SACLANT PRIORITY
CINCLANT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104273

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT: DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1977

REFS: A. USNATO 2546, DTG 291710Z APR 77; B. USNATO 2702,
DTG 041823Z MAY 77

1. WE SHARE MISSION'S DISSATISFACTION WITH SOME ASPECTS OF
UK FORMULATION ON RESOURCE GUIDANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 104273

2. IN LIGHT OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR US FORMULATION AT
DPC MEETING WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO MOVE FORWARD NOW WITH
COMPROMISE FORMULA PUT FORWARD IN PARA 7, REF A.

3. ONE PROBLEM WITH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AS WE SEE IT HERE
IS THAT IT WOULD PERMIT ANY COUNTRY TO SCHEDULE LOW

INCREASES OR EVEN NO INCREASES IN FIRST YEAR OR YEARS OF PLANNING PERIOD, WITH COMPENSATORY SPENDING ENVISAGED IN LATTER YEARS. SINCE NATIONAL PLANS ROLL FORWARD EACH YEAR, ALWAYS ENCOUNTERING REAL FINANCIAL PRESSURES AGAINST CURRENT SPENDING, INCREASES MIGHT END UP IN SOME CASES AS ALWAYS IN FUTURE. ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH A FORMULA CALLING FOR AN AVERAGE INCREASE OVER THE PLANNING PERIOD IS THAT IT WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR MNC'S IN PREPARING FORCE

PROPOSALS. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROPOSAL MAY PROVE USEFUL IN LATER NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SINCE GUIDANCE WOULD COME INTO EFFECT FOR FIRST TIME IN FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS AND FORCE PLANS FOR 1979, WE HOPE THAT UK COULD ACCEPT FORMULA OF AT LEAST THREE PERCENT APPLIED TO EACH COUNTRY RATHER THAN TO ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, ON THE UNDERSTANDING (WHICH MIGHT BE MADE SOMEHOW EXPLICIT, PERHAPS IN DPC DISCUSSION) THAT ANY EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN COURSE OF DEFENSE REVIEW.

5. WHILE WE SEE MERIT IN MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR DEFENSE, WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID PROLONGED DEBATE OVER RESOURCE GUIDANCE, SINCE IT COULD WORK AGAINST ACHIEVEMENT OF OTHER OBJECTIVES. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION SHOULD DISCUSS WITH UK DELEGATION POSSIBILITY OF UK ACCEPTANCE OF FORMULATION DESCRIBED PARA 4 ABOVE. IF ACCEPTABLE TO UK, BOTH DELEGATIONS MIGHT SUGGEST TO LUNS THAT HE ATTEMPT TO SECURE NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 104273

ACCEPTANCE AT PERMREP LEVEL BEFORE 17 MAY MEETING, OR FAILING THAT, PUT IT FORWARD AT 17 MAY MEETING AS A WORKING COMPROMISE.

6. FYI. PER REQUEST REPORTED REF B, DEFENSE STAFF IS RECOMMENDING SECDEF-MOD MULLEY MEETING ON MORNING OF 17 MAY; AT PRESENT NO LETTER TO MULLEY IS CONTEMPLATED. END FYI.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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